



Vote 2006

Analysis of Environmental Platforms of the Federal Parties

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ANALYSIS OF ENVIRONMENTAL PLATFORMS OF THE FEDERAL PARTIES

The process: The five political parties reviewed for this analysis are the Liberal, Conservative, Bloc Quebecois, New Democratic and Green Parties. The scoring is based both on the published platforms and the responses to a Sierra Club of Canada questionnaire sent to all parties in early December, 2005. All five parties responded. The score is based on a possible total that exceeds 100% -- 75% for the platform and a possible 28% for answers to the questionnaire – for a possible total of 103%.

Within the platforms, Sierra Club of Canada scoring granted points for breadth of the positions stated. Nuanced differences of specific proposals to reach goals made less difference than commitment to specific goals. For example, a commitment to complete the national parks system was a good answer. Differences between parties as to how much money would be allocated to reach the goal was not a significant factor in scoring.

Environmental platforms should cover the following issues, therefore, Sierra Club of Canada scoring granted points for policies in these areas and deducted points if those policies were not referenced at all.

Issues scored (3 points each, to a possible total of 75 points):

- 1) Toxic chemicals management
- 2) Pesticide reduction
- 3) Toxic site remediation (includes Brownfields)
- 4) Tougher standards for clean water
- 5) Remediation of natural areas/ restoration of ecological health
- 6) Shifts to renewable energy
- 7) Shifts to renewable fuels in transportation
- 8) Commitment to meet Kyoto targets in the first commitment period (2008-2012)
- 9) Commitment to deeper reductions post-2012 within the Kyoto Protocol
- 10) Ending subsidies to fossil fuels
- 11) Ending subsidies to nuclear energy
- 12) A commitment to Ecological fiscal reform, i.e., tax shifting (feebates for vehicles, gas taxes to reduce income taxes, etc)
- 13) Support for strengthening infrastructure for mass transit
- 14) Support improvements in vehicle fuel economy
- 15) Enhanced regulation/programming for cleaner air
- 16) Use federal powers to regulate improved energy efficiency
- 17) Commitment to regulate greenhouse gases
- 18) Commitment to complete the National Parks system
- 19) Commitment to create Marine Protected Areas
- 20) Commitment to protect ecological integrity of existing National Parks

- 21) Commitment to strengthen the Species at Risk Act
- 22) Commitment to address/preferably ban use of draggers in fishery
- 23) Commitment to maintain moratorium on offshore in B.C. and extend it to Gulf of St.Lawrence
- 24) Commitment to protecting Canada's boreal forests, within the limits of federal jurisdiction
- 25) Strengthen funding for science in environmental science departments of government (Environment Canada, Fisheries and Oceans, Canadian Forest Service, Health Canada)

Questionnaire:

The full questionnaire, with preambles, is attached as an annex.

(14 questions with 2 points each to a possible 28 points):

- 1) Fuel Economy
- 2) End subsidies to Asbestos industry
- 3) Species at risk
- 4) Nuclear subsidies
- 5) Chapter 11 of NAFTA
- 6) Long term Kyoto targets
- 7) Public commission on subsidies to Biotechnology
- 8) Restrict/ban pesticides causing cancer, birth defects, immuno-suppression and neurological damage from lawn care use
- 9) Placing Oceans Act above petroleum boards in Atlantic Canada
- 10) Ecological Fiscal Reform
- 11) a. Amend Nuclear Waste Management Act, b. Full debate and free vote on NWMO report
- 12) National Parks
- 13) Strengthen CEPA in five year review to Europe's REACH programme standards
- 14) Terminator Seeds a. oppose field testing, b. support de facto moratorium through U.N. Convention on Biodiversity

PARTY	OVERALL SCORE
GREEN	97
NEW DEMOCRATIC	91
LIBERAL	53
BLOC QUEBECOIS	46
CONSERVATIVE	31

GREEN PARTY

Party Platform

Quick facts:

Pages devoted to environment and sustainability: 10

Number of separate policy commitments: 77

1) Toxic chemicals management.....	3
2) Pesticide reduction.....	3
3) Toxic site remediation (includes Brownfields).....	3
4) Tougher standards for clean water.....	3
5) Remediation of natural areas/ restoration of ecological health.....	3
6) Shifts to renewable energy.....	3
7) Shifts to renewable fuels in transportation.....	3
8) Commitment to meet Kyoto targets in the first commitment period (2008-2012).....	3
9) Commitment to deeper reductions post-2012 within the Kyoto Protocol.....	3
10) Ending subsidies to fossil fuels.....	3
11) Ending subsidies to nuclear energy.....	3
12) A commitment to Ecological fiscal reform, i.e., tax shifting (feebates for vehicles, gas taxes to reduce income taxes, etc).....	3
13) Support for strengthening infrastructure for mass transit.....	3
14) Support improvements in vehicle fuel economy.....	3
15) Enhanced regulation/programming for cleaner air.....	3
16) Use federal powers to regulate improved energy efficiency.....	3
17) Commitment to regulate greenhouse gases.....	3
18) Commitment to complete the National Parks system.....	1
19) Commitment to create Marine Protected Areas.....	3
20) Commitment to protect ecological integrity of National Parks..	3
21) Commitment to strengthen the <u>Species at Risk Act</u>	3
22) Commitment to address/preferably ban use of draggers in fishery....	3
23) Commitment to maintain moratorium on offshore in B.C. and extend it to Gulf of St.Lawrence.....	2
24) Commitment to protecting Canada's boreal forests, within the limits of federal jurisdiction.....	3
25) Strengthen funding for science in environmental science departments of government (Environment Canada, Fisheries and Oceans, Canadian Forest Service, Health Canada)	0
Subtotal.....	69

Comments on platform. The Green Party has substantially improved its platform since 2004. The policy proposals are, for the most part, well conceived and grounded in much

of the existing policy debate. Although the structure of this analysis has no extra points to award, it should be noted the Greens also oppose the use of federal subsidies for the seal hunt, support phasing out nuclear power, establishing an Index of Well-Being to augment the GDP, ratifying the Cartagena Protocol and eliminating harmful aquaculture practices. The Green Party would also make the right to a safe environment, clean air and safe drinking water a Charter right. The only negative comment is that the platform intrudes into provincial jurisdiction on issues of forest policy (such as banning clear-cutting), reflecting that the policy capacity of the Party is still evolving.

Questionnaire:

Possible points 2/answer

1) Fuel Economy.....	2
2) End subsidies to Asbestos industry	2
3) Species at risk.....	2
4) Nuclear subsidies.....	2
5) Chapter 11 of NAFTA.....	2
6) Long term Kyoto targets.....	2
7) Public commission on subsidies to Biotechnology	2
8) Restrict/ban pesticides causing cancer, birth defects, immuno-suppression and neurological damage from lawn care use	2
9) Placing <u>Oceans Act</u> above petroleum boards in Atlantic Canada.....	2
10) Ecological Fiscal Reform.....	2
11) Amend <u>Nuclear Waste Management Act</u> , b. Full debate and free vote on NWMO report.....	2
12) National Parks.....	2
13) Strengthen CEPA.....	2
14) Terminator Seeds a. oppose field testing, b. support de facto moratorium through U.N. Convention on Biodiversity	2
Subtotal.....	28
Total for Green Party.....	.97

NEW DEMOCRATIC PARTY

Party Platform

Quick facts:

Pages devoted to environment and sustainability: 6

Number of separate policy commitments: 34

1) Toxic chemicals management.....	3
2) Pesticide reduction.....	1

3) Toxic site remediation (includes Brownfields).....	0
4) Tougher standards for clean water.....	3
5) Remediation of natural areas/ restoration of ecological health.....	3
6) Shifts to renewable energy	3
7) Shifts to renewable fuels in transportation.....	3
8) Commitment to meet Kyoto targets in the first commitment period (2008-2012).....	3
9) Commitment to deeper reductions post-2012 within the Kyoto Protocol.....	3
10) Ending subsidies to fossil fuels.....	3
11) Ending subsidies to nuclear energy.....	3
12) A commitment to Ecological fiscal reform, i.e., tax shifting (feebates for vehicles, gas taxes to reduce income taxes, etc)	3
13) Support for strengthening infrastructure for mass transit.....	3
14) Support improvements in vehicle fuel economy.....	3
15) Enhanced regulation/programming for cleaner air.....	3
16) Use federal powers to regulate improved energy efficiency.....	3
17) Commitment to regulate greenhouse gases.....	3
18) Commitment to complete the National Parks system.....	3
19) Commitment to create Marine Protected Areas.....	3
20) Commitment to protect ecological integrity of existing National Parks	3
21) Commitment to strengthen the <u>Species at Risk Act</u>	3
22) Commitment to address/preferably ban use of draggers in fishery....	2
23) Commitment to maintain moratorium on offshore in B.C. and extend it to Gulf of St.Lawrence	2
24) Commitment to protecting Canada's boreal forests, within the limits of federal jurisdiction.....	3
25) Strengthen funding for science in environmental science departments of government (Environment Canada, Fisheries and Oceans, Canadian Forest Service, Health Canada)	0
Subtotal.....	65

Comments on platform:

The NDP Platform includes a number of innovative and sensible suggestions. The most detailed and evolved section of the platform is in the area of climate change and energy. The platform has improved over the 2004 platform in that there is more attention paid to nature issues, national parks and non-urban environmental concerns. Some issues are simply missing, but would likely be supported by the NDP traditionally. Other issues that are worthy of note include action on aquaculture and establishing a National Conservation Fund for National Wildlife Areas, currently woefully under-funded. The NDP platform explicitly supports the construction of an east-west power grid. The

proposal to establish new building codes is perhaps misstated, but appears to intrude into provincial jurisdiction.

Questionnaire:

Possible points 2/answer

- 1) Fuel Economy2
- 2) End subsidies to Asbestos industry0
- 3) Species at risk.....2
- 4) Nuclear subsidies.....2
- 5) Chapter 11 of NAFTA.....2
- 6) Long term Kyoto targets.....2
- 7) Public commission on subsidies to Biotechnology2
- 8) Restrict/ban pesticides causing cancer, birth defects,
immuno-suppression and neurological damage from lawn care use2
- 9) Placing Oceans Act above petroleum boards in Atlantic Canada.....2
- 10) Ecological Fiscal Reform.....2
- 11) Amend Nuclear Waste Management Act, Full debate and free vote
on NWMO report.....2
- 12) National Parks.....2
- 13) Strengthen CEPA2
- 14) Terminator Seeds a. oppose field testing, b. support de facto
moratorium through U.N. Convention on Biodiversity2

Subtotal26

Total for the New Democratic Party.....91

LIBERAL PARTY

Party Platform

Quick facts:

Pages devoted to environment and sustainability: 7

Number of separate policy commitments: 16 (not including 9 commitments previously announced; if counted as election commitments, total would be 25)

- 1) Toxic chemicals management.....2
- 2) Pesticide reduction.....0
- 3) Toxic site remediation (includes Brownfields).....3
- 4) Tougher standards for clean water.....1
- 5) Remediation of natural areas/ restoration of ecological health.....3

6) Shifts to renewable energy	3
7) Shifts to renewable fuels in transportation.....	3
8) Commitment to meet Kyoto targets in the first commitment period (2008-2012).....	3
9) Commitment to deeper reductions post-2012 within the Kyoto Protocol.....	3
10) Ending subsidies to fossil fuels.....	0
11) Ending subsidies to nuclear energy.....	0
12) A commitment to Ecological fiscal reform, i.e., tax shifting (feebates for vehicles, gas taxes to reduce income taxes, etc)	2
13) Support for strengthening infrastructure for mass transit.....	3
14) Support improvements in vehicle fuel economy.....	2
15) Enhanced regulation/programming for cleaner air.....	2
16) Use federal powers to regulate improved energy efficiency.....	1
17) Commitment to regulate greenhouse gases.....	3
18) Commitment to complete the National Parks system.....	3
19) Commitment to create Marine Protected Areas.....	2
20) Commitment to protect ecological integrity of existing National Parks.....	3
21) Commitment to strengthen the <u>Species at Risk Act</u>	0
22) Commitment to address/preferably ban use of dragnets in fishery....	0
23) Commitment to maintain moratorium on offshore in B.C. and extend it to Gulf of St.Lawrence	0
24) Commitment to protecting Canada's boreal forests, within the limits of federal jurisdiction.....	0
25) Strengthen funding for science in environmental science departments of government (Environment Canada, Fisheries and Oceans, Canadian Forest Service, Health Canada)	3
Subtotal.....	46

Comments on platform:

This platform is a significant improvement over that released in 2004, which consisted of only one new commitment, expansion of investments in wind energy. The strongest environmental commitments of the 2006 Liberal Party Platform, as in the case of the NDP platform, are in the area of energy and climate change. The weakness is that the same platform that pledges action on climate change and greenhouse gas reductions also encourages increased greenhouse gas emissions from the Athabasca Tar Sands, trumpets the potential in offshore oil and gas and supports the Mackenzie Valley Gas Pipeline, in a different chapter of the platform (at page40). Not part of the template for grading, and on the positive side of the ledger is support for International Polar Year.

Questionnaire:

Possible points 2/answer

1) Fuel Economy.....	1
2) End subsidies to Asbestos industry	0
3) Species at risk.....	0
4) Nuclear subsidies.....	0
5) Chapter 11 of NAFTA.....	0
6) Long term Kyoto targets.....	2
7) Public commission on subsidies to Biotechnology	0
8) Restrict/ban pesticides causing cancer, birth defects, immuno-suppression and neurological damage from lawn care use	0
9) Placing <u>Oceans Act</u> above petroleum boards in Atlantic Canada.....	0
10) Ecological Fiscal Reform.....	2
11) Amend <u>Nuclear Waste Management Act</u> , Full debate and free vote on NWMO report.....	0
12) National Parks.....	2
13) Strengthen CEPA	0
14) Terminator Seeds a. oppose field testing, b. support de facto moratorium through U.N. Convention on Biodiversity	1
Subtotal	7
Liberal Party Total.....	53

BLOC QUEBECOIS

Party Platform

Quick facts:

Pages devoted to environment and sustainability: 16

Number of separate policy commitments: 10 (although some are not pledges as government, but demands to the government)

1) Toxic chemicals management.....	0
2) Pesticide reduction.....	0
3) Toxic site remediation (includes Brownfields).....	0
4) Tougher standards for clean water.....	0
5) Remediation of natural areas/ restoration of ecological health.....	0
6) Shifts to renewable energy	3
7) Shifts to renewable fuels in transportation.....	3

8) Commitment to meet Kyoto targets in the first commitment period (2008-2012).....	3
9) Commitment to deeper reductions post-2012 within the Kyoto Protocol.....	3
10) Ending subsidies to fossil fuels.....	3
11) Ending subsidies to nuclear energy.....	3
12) A commitment to Ecological fiscal reform, i.e., tax shifting (feebates for vehicles, gas taxes to reduce income taxes, etc)	3
13) Support for strengthening infrastructure for mass transit... ..	3
14) Support improvements in vehicle fuel economy.....	3
15) Enhanced regulation/programming for cleaner air.....	0
16) Use federal powers to regulate improved energy efficiency.....	0
17) Commitment to regulate greenhouse gases.....	3
18) Commitment to complete the National Parks system.....	0
19) Commitment to create Marine Protected Areas.....	0
20) Commitment to protect ecological integrity of existing National Parks	0
21) Commitment to strengthen the <u>Species at Risk Act</u>	0
22) Commitment to address/preferably ban use of draggers in fishery... ..	0
23) Commitment to maintain moratorium on offshore in B.C. and extend it to Gulf of St.Lawrence	0
24) Commitment to protecting Canada's boreal forests, within the limits of federal jurisdiction.....	0
25) Strengthen funding for science in environmental science departments of government (Environment Canada, Fisheries and Oceans, Canadian Forest Service, Health Canada)	0
Subtotal.....	30

Comments on platform:

The Bloc Quebecois platform suffers, naturally enough, from a lack of interest in national Canadian concerns, such as a system of networked protected areas or national standards for drinking water. The only nation of interest to the Bloc is Quebec, but even there some omissions are surprising. While the Bloc is supportive of a ban on pesticides, as noted below, pesticides and toxic chemicals are not part of their platform. Where the Bloc platform is very strong is in the commitment to the Kyoto Protocol.

Questionnaire:

Possible points 2/answer

1) Fuel Economy.....	2
2) End subsidies to Asbestos industry	0
3) Species at risk.....	0
4) Nuclear subsidies.....	2
5) Chapter 11 of NAFTA.....	2
6) Long term Kyoto targets.....	0*

7) Public commission on subsidies to Biotechnology	0
8) Restrict/ban pesticides causing cancer, birth defects, immuno-suppression and neurological damage from lawn care use	1
9) Placing <u>Oceans Act</u> above petroleum boards in Atlantic Canada.....	1
10) Ecological Fiscal Reform.....	2
11) Amend <u>Nuclear Waste Management Act</u> , Full debate and free vote on NWMO report.....	2
12) National Parks.....	0
13) Strengthen CEPA	2
14) Terminator Seeds a. oppose field testing, b. support de facto moratorium through U.N. Convention on Biodiversity	2

* The Bloc response is a complaint about the negotiating process with the federal government and fails to answer the question. The Bloc may, in fact, support long term targets; it just failed to say so in this response.

Subtotal16

Bloc Quebecois Total.....46

CONSERVATIVE PARTY

Party Platform

Quick facts:

Pages devoted to environment and sustainability: 1^{1/2}

Number of separate policy commitments: 11

1) Toxic chemicals management.....	0
2) Pesticide reduction.....	0
3) Toxic site remediation (includes Brownfields).....	3
4) Tougher standards for clean water.....	2
5) Remediation of natural areas/ restoration of ecological health.....	0
6) Shifts to renewable energy	3
7) Shifts to renewable fuels in transportation.....	3
8) Commitment to meet Kyoto targets in the first commitment period (2008-2012).....	0
9) Commitment to deeper reductions post-2012 within the Kyoto Protocol.....	0
10) Ending subsidies to fossil fuels.....	0
11) Ending subsidies to nuclear energy.....	0
12) A commitment to Ecological fiscal reform, i.e., tax shifting (feebates for vehicles, gas taxes to reduce income taxes, etc)	3
13) Support for strengthening infrastructure for mass transit.....	3

14) Support improvements in vehicle fuel economy.....	0
15) Enhanced regulation/programming for cleaner air.....	3
16) Use federal powers to regulate improved energy efficiency.....	0
17) Commitment to regulate greenhouse gases.....	0
18) Commitment to complete the National Parks system.....	0
19) Commitment to create Marine Protected Areas.....	0
20) Commitment to protect ecological integrity of existing National Parks	0
21) Commitment to strengthen the <u>Species at Risk Act</u>	0
22) Commitment to address/preferably ban use of draggers in fishery....	2
23) Commitment to maintain moratorium on offshore in B.C. and extend it to Gulf of St.Lawrence	0
24) Commitment to protecting Canada's boreal forests, within the limits of federal jurisdiction	0
25) Strengthen funding for science in environmental science departments of government (Environment Canada, Fisheries and Oceans, Canadian Forest Service, Health Canada)	3
Subtotal.....	25

Comments on platform:

The Conservative Party platform has a number of good ideas on specific issues, particularly for the fishery, including a reference to sustainable harvesting. It should be noted the Conservative Party explicitly commits to maintaining the New Deal for Cities for the current five years, although expanding it to include highways and other projects outside the current commitments to only sustainable green infrastructure. The transit pass tax exemption is a good idea, as well, and qualified as a “tax shifting” notion. The transit tax deduction proposal is, however, problematic as proposed. In the Conservative Party fiscal plan it is listed as costing \$2 billion over five years, with the source of funds identified as the Climate Fund. The entire Climate Fund, announced last April within Project Green, is \$1 billion over five years, so it appears the Conservatives would cancel that programme, which is aimed at delivering 100 megatonnes of carbon reduction. The transit pass deduction is estimated to have an insignificant impact on carbon reductions. The question of the source of the other \$1 billion in the Conservative transit pass deduction is unanswered.

Clearly, the Conservative position on Kyoto and its refusal to comply with Canada’s legally binding international commitments makes its platform unacceptable.

The Conservative Party commitment to enshrining private property rights in the Charter is a source of concern. The private property rights provision of the U.S. Bill of Rights has been used in many state legislatures to overturn environmental laws, such as those to protect wetlands and stop shoreline erosion.

Questionnaire:

Possible points 2/answer

1) Fuel Economy.....	0
2) End subsidies to Asbestos industry	0
3) Species at risk.....	1
4) Nuclear subsidies.....	0
5) Chapter 11 of NAFTA.....	1
6) Long term Kyoto targets.....	0
7) Public commission on subsidies to Biotechnology	0
8) Restrict/ban pesticides causing cancer, birth defects, immuno-suppression and neurological damage from lawn care use	0
9) Placing <u>Oceans Act</u> above petroleum boards in Atlantic Canada.....	0
10) Ecological Fiscal Reform.....	1
11) Amend <u>Nuclear Waste Management Act</u> , Full debate and free vote on NWMO report.....	1
12) National Parks.....	1
13) Strengthen CEPA	1
14) Terminator Seeds a. oppose field testing, b. support de facto moratorium through U.N. Convention on Biodiversity	0
Subtotal.....	6
Total	31

ANNEX - Election 2006 Questionnaire

Please provide Yes, No or undecided answers. Feel free to provide explanations. Responses to Katie Albright, 613-241-4611, communications@sierraclub.ca by December 20, 2005 at 5pm.

1) FUEL ECONOMY

BACKGROUND:

Approximately 30% of Canada's greenhouse gas emissions come from transportation. 94% of Canadians want the federal government to improve fuel efficiency of cars through regulation.

QUESTION:

If your party forms the government, will you adopt the California Clean Air greenhouse gas standards that will require new cars to be 33% more fuel efficient by 2015?

YES / NO / UNDECIDED

COMMENT:

2) ASBESTOS

BACKGROUND:

Canada is one of the world's major exporters of chrysotile asbestos, a well documented carcinogen. According to health experts, there are 100,000 excess deaths around the world every year due to asbestos exposure.

QUESTION:

If your party forms the government, will you commit to ending federal funding support for this deadly industry (\$700,000 announced in early December 2003) and support instead the just transition of workers?

YES / NO / UNDECIDED

COMMENT:

3) SPECIES AT RISK

BACKGROUND:

Canada's Species at Risk Act promised to protect species wherever they were found. Yet some of the most desperately endangered species have been excluded from protection. The Minister of Fisheries denied a request for emergency listing of the Sakinaw and Cultis Lake salmon of BC, despite clear scientific evidence that they are endangered. Meanwhile, the spotted owl in BC, Canada's most endangered bird species, continues to decline as the province of British Columbia still allows logging in its suitable habitat. In

2004, the environmental community requested that the federal government implement an emergency order to protect the spotted owl, but the federal government has instead stood by and watched as the remaining spotted owl population plummeted (estimates are now at 3 breeding pairs). It appears that the province and the feds are looking to abdicate their responsibility to protect Canada's biodiversity by waiting until the spotted owl is deemed unrecoverable.

QUESTION:

If your party forms the government, will you be prepared to use the emergency and safety net provisions of the Act to truly protect endangered species?

YES / NO / UNDECIDED

COMMENT:

4) NUCLEAR SUBSIDIES

BACKGROUND:

Fifty years from 1953-2003, the federal government has given over \$17 billion (2001) in subsidies to Atomic Energy of Canada Limited (AECL), a crown corporation. In his 1996 budget, then-finance minister Paul Martin promised to reduce AECL funding to \$100 million per year by 1998-99. However, the annual subsidy has remained over the \$100 million mark and for the 2004-2005 budget year remained at \$163.8 million. As the world increasingly shifts to sustainable electricity programs based on efficiency and renewable energy technologies, nuclear power has entered into a period of long-term decline. AECL has no prospects for reactor sales in the foreseeable future, and its hopes of a revival based on a new and untested reactor design are highly speculative.

QUESTION:

If your party forms the government, will you commit to ending subsidies to Atomic Energy of Canada Limited (AECL)?

YES / NO / UNDECIDED

COMMENT:

5) NAFTA

BACKGROUND:

In the last five years, Canada has been at the losing end of a number of challenges under the North American Free Trade Agreement's (NAFTA's) investment provisions (Chapter 11). Due to Chapter 11 challenges, Canada has had to repeal domestic legislation to prohibit a neuro-toxic gasoline additive (in this instance due to a decision to "settle" the matter mid-dispute), and has had to make large cash payments (in the tens of millions) to U.S. based companies.

QUESTION:

If your party forms government, will you commit to a re-negotiation of Chapter 11 and to ensuring no similar provisions in any new trade agreements?

YES / NO / UNDECIDED

COMMENT:

6) KYOTO

BACKGROUND:

Canada's Kyoto commitment is to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 6% below 1990 levels between 2008-2012. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, the world's most distinguished and authoritative scientific body on the issue of human disruption of the planet's climate, has established that, in order to avoid an atmospheric doubling of concentrations of carbon dioxide, global reductions of carbon dioxide on the order of 60-80% below 1990 levels are required.

QUESTION:

If your party forms government, will you commit to a long term strategy to reduce reliance on fossil fuels and reduce greenhouse gas emissions by at least 50% by 2030?

YES / NO / UNDECIDED

COMMENT:

7) BIOTECH

BACKGROUND:

In the last five years, the federal government has provided \$3.7 billion in subsidies to the biotechnology industry.

QUESTION:

If your party forms government, will you commit to a public commission to allow the Canadian public and Canadian Parliament a full debate on whether these subsidies are in the Canadian national interest?

YES / NO / UNDECIDED

COMMENT:

8) PESTICIDES

BACKGROUND:

Seventy-five municipalities have taken the advice of the Ontario College of Family Physicians, Canadian Cancer Society, Registered Nurses Association of Ontario, the

Ontario Public Health Association, the Association of Early Childhood Educators in Ontario, the Canadian Association of Physicians for the Environment, the United Steelworkers of America, the Canadian Union of Postal Workers, and the Canadian Labor Congress, Federation of Canadian Municipalities and banned or restricted cosmetic pesticide use.

QUESTION:

If your party forms government, will you commit to using the Pest Control Products Act to ban or restrict the use of pesticides with the potential to cause cancer, birth defects, immunological suppression or neurological damage, from use for cosmetic (lawn care) and/or household use, giving every Canadian equal protection?

YES / NO / UNDECIDED

COMMENT:

9) THE OCEANS ACT

BACKGROUND:

The Oceans Act was passed in 1996. It still lacks funds for implementation. Despite its promise to provide comprehensive ecosystem approaches to coastal and ocean management decisions, regional petroleum boards (such as in Nova Scotia) ignore the advice of the scientists in the Department of Fisheries and Oceans and allow exploration activities in some of the country's most sensitive and productive marine areas.

QUESTION:

If your party forms government, will you commit to implementation of the Oceans Act with authority superior petroleum boards to allow ecosystem based decisions and the precautionary approach to be respected?

YES / NO / UNDECIDED

COMMENT:

10) ECOLOGICAL FISCAL REFORM

BACKGROUND:

In the last federal budget, a few positive steps were taken toward environmental indicators to assist in the budgetary process. However, overall, our tax system and entrenched subsidies result in perverse signals, encouraging pollution and waste.

QUESTION:

If your party forms government, will you commit to Ecological Fiscal Reform measures such as tax shifting or feebate, and, without raising taxes, realign the fiscal system to tax those things we do not want (pollution) and reward those things we do (innovation and jobs)?

YES / NO / UNDECIDED
COMMENT:

11) HIGH-LEVEL RADIOACTIVE WASTE

BACKGROUND:

There are now about 40,000 tonnes of high level radioactive waste (used nuclear reactor fuel) at sites in Manitoba, Ontario, Quebec and New Brunswick. This waste remains deadly for hundreds of thousands of years. The Chrétien government ignored the advice of an environmental assessment panel and gave complete control of the Nuclear Waste Management Organization (NWMO) to the nuclear industry. At least until a phaseout of nuclear power is achieved, environmental groups favour near-surface monitored and retrievable storage, whereas the nuclear industry support deep geological disposal.

QUESTION: Given the controversial nature of radioactive waste management, will your party support (a) amending the *Nuclear Waste Management Act* to overhaul the board of the NWMO to include health, safety, and environmental experts?

YES / NO / UNDECIDED
COMMENT:

(b) a full parliamentary debate and free vote on the recommendations of the NWMO and the environmental assessment panel.

YES / NO / UNDECIDED
COMMENT:

12) NATIONAL PARKS

BACKGROUND:

The current government is committed to establishing 10 new national parks and 5 new marine conservation areas by 2008.

QUESTION:

If elected will you complete the national parks system and protect the ecological integrity of existing national parks.

YES / NO / UNDECIDED
COMMENT:

13) CEPA vs. REACH

BACKGROUND:

The European Parliament has recently approved far-reaching legislation which will lead to the safety testing of thousands of chemicals used in everyday products. The law, called Reach - Registration, Evaluation and Authorisation of Chemicals - would create one database including all chemicals used in the EU.

Employers say it will impose heavy costs and cause firms to flee Europe.

The Canadian Environmental Protection Act is currently under review

QUESTION:

If elected will you ensure that the review of CEPA enables it to become a piece of legislation as stringent and able to protect human health and the environment as Europe's REACH program?

YES / NO / UNDECIDED

COMMENT:

14) TERMINATOR SEEDS

BACKGROUND:

Terminator seeds are genetically engineered to be sterile after first harvest so that farmers cannot save seed but are forced back to the marketplace each season. In February 2005, the Canadian government delegation to the United Nations meeting of the Convention on Biological Diversity attempted to overturn the *de facto* moratorium on Terminator technology. A new national and global Ban Terminator Campaign has been formed to bring forward the voices of farmers, Indigenous peoples and local communities who strongly oppose this technology and want to see national bans and a strengthening of the UN moratorium.

QUESTION

(a) Does your party oppose the field testing and commercialization of Terminator seeds (Genetic Use Restriction Technologies or GURTs)?

YES / NO / UNDECIDED

COMMENT:

(b) Will your party support a strengthening of the *de facto* moratorium on Terminator technology at the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity?

YES / NO / UNDECIDED

COMMENT: